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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Tomofumi YAMANASHI et al. Group Art Unit : Not Yet Assigned  
Appl. No. : 10/596,773 Examiner : Not Yet Assigned  
(National Stage of PCT/JP2004/019014)  
I.A. Filed : December 22, 2004 Confirmation No. : 1328  
For : VOICE/MUSICAL SOUND ENCODING DEVICE AND VOICE/MUSICAL  
SOUND ENCODING METHOD

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-  
1.98, Applicants hereby brings to the attention of the Examiner the following  
information.

The following documents were cited in an International Search Report with  
respect to International Patent Application No. PCT/JP2004/016008, of which the  
present application is the U.S. National Stage Application. Copies of the International  
Search Report (in Japanese and English) have been filed concurrently with the present  
application and should thus have been brought to the attention of the Examiner.

- (1) YONEZAKI et al., "Jikan Shuhasu Masking o Riyoshita Spectrum Horaku  
no Vector Ryoshika," The Acoustical Society of Japan (ASJ), Heisei 7

- Nendo Shuki Kenkyu Happyokai Koen Ronbunshu – I –, September 27, 1995, pages 283-284;
- (2) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 8-123490 A (May 17, 1996). Applicants note that this document is cited beginning at page 2 of the specification of the above-captioned application;
- (3) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2002-323199 A (November 14, 2003), along with patent family International Publication No. WO 2003/091989 (November 6, 2003);
- (4) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 7-160297 A (June 23, 1995), along with patent family member U.S. Patent No. 5,666,465 A1 to OZAWA, which issued on September 9, 1997;
- (5) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2003-058196 A (February 8, 2003), along with patent family member European Patent Publication No. EP 0942411 A2 (September 15, 1999); and
- (6) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 11-327600 A (November 26, 1999), along with patent family members U.S. Patent No. 6,311,153 to NAKATOH et al., which issued on October 30, 2001; and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0044727 to NAKATOH et al., which was published on November 22, 2001.

The relevance of the documents cited in the International Search Report, as ascertained with respect to the International claims by the International Examiner, is set forth in the International Search Report.

Applicants further submit the following documents:

- (7) JOHNSTON, "Estimation of Perceptual Entropy Using Noise Masking Criteria," Proceedings ICASSP-88, May 1988, pages 2524-2527.  
Applicants note that this document is cited beginning at page 10 of the specification of the above-captioned application;
- (8) U.S. Patent No. 6,988,065 to YASUNAGA et al., which issued on January 17, 2006;
- (9) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0173677 to SATO et al., which was published on August 3, 2006;
- (10) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/00080091 to YASUNAGA et al., which was published on April 3, 2006; and
- (11) U.S. Patent Application No. 11/429,944 to MORII et al., which was filed on May 9, 2006.

Further to 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(ii) and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(iii) if the U.S. patent application was filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the U.S. patent publications and patent application are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Also, when the above-noted pending application is published, the Examiner is respectfully requested to list its publication number on a PTO 1449 Form (or PTO 892 Form) to confirm consideration thereof.

Further, since the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is assumed to have received the International Search Report and the documents cited therein from the International Bureau, and the Examiner is assumed to have considered these

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documents in accordance with M.P.E.P. 609.03 and 1893.03(g), and copies of these documents, i.e., above-noted documents (1) to (6), are not enclosed herewith.

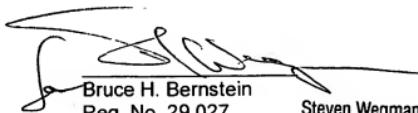
However, if any copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicants respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. A copy of above-noted document (7) is attached hereto, and all of the above-noted documents are listed on an attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus, no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tomofumi YAMANASHI et al.



The image shows two handwritten signatures. The signature on the left is for Bruce H. Bernstein, and the signature on the right is for Steven Wegman. Both signatures are cursive and appear to be in black ink.

Bruce H. Bernstein  
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October 5, 2006  
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FORM PTO-1449		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office		Atty. Docket No. P30147	Application No. 10/596,773	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)				Applicant Tomofumi YAMANASHI et al.		
				Filing Date December 22, 2004	Group Unknown	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS
		5 6 6 6 4 6 5	09/08/97	OZAWA		
		6 3 1 1 1 5 3	10/30/01	NAKATOH et al.		
2001		0 0 4 4 7 2 7	11/22/01	NAKATOH et al.		
		6 9 8 8 0 6 5	01/17/06	YASUNAGA et al.		
2006		0 1 7 3 6 7 7	08/03/06	SATO et al.		
2006		0 0 8 0 0 9 1	04/03/06	YASUNAGA et al.		
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS
8	-	1 2 3 4 9 0	05/07/06	JAPAN		
2002	-	3 2 3 1 9 9	11/14/03	JAPAN		
2003	/	0 0 1 0 8 9	11/06/03	W.I.P.O.		
7	-	1 6 0 2 9 7	06/23/95	JAPAN		
2003	-	0 5 8 1 9 6	02/08/03	JAPAN		
	0	0 4 2 4 1 1	09/15/00	E.P.O.		
11	-	3 2 7 6 0 0	11/26/99	JAPAN		
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)						
1	YONEZAKI et al., "Jikan Shuhasu Masking o Ryoshita Spectrum Horaku no Vector Ryoshika," The Acoustical Society of Japan (ASJ), Heisei 7 Nendo Gakki Kenkyu Happyo Koen Ronbunshu I, September 27, 1995, pages 283-284.					
2	JOHNSTON, "Estimation of Perceptual Entropy Using Noise Masking Criteria," Proceedings ICASSP-88, May 1988, pages 2524-2527.					
3	U.S. Patent Application No. 11/429,944 to MORII et al., which was filed on May 9, 2006.					
EXAMINER	/Natalie Lennox/			DATE CONSIDERED	05/15/2008	
*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.						